

Remarks:

On page 18 of the outstanding Office Action of October 22, 2002, the Examiner indicated that he would not give patentable weight to the Applicant's recitation of "at least two of the plurality of connections do not respectively have a same class of transmission service" as found in Claim 1. As suggested by the Examiner, the amendments advanced to Claim 1 now result in this recitation being found in the body of this claim. The Examiner is now respectfully directed to accord patentable weight to this recitation. In view of this amendment to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully reiterates the argument found in the Response dated August 14, 2002, more particularly in the second complete paragraph found at the bottom of page 20 thereof. Moreover, for further clarification of the scope of Claim 1, Applicant has now amended this claim so as to clarify that flow control terminates at the core source and at the core destination. The Applicant respectfully reiterates the explicit teaching as found in the Siu reference to the effect that flow control does not terminate at the edge of the ATM network but "is effectively extended all the way to the TCP source" (Column 4, lines 7-8). This is in contrast to the present invention as now defined in Claim 1 as amended. The teachings of Siu were already pointed out to the Examiner in the Response dated August 14, 2002 in the first complete paragraph thereof found on page 21. The latter amendment to Claim 1 is also now made in respect of Claim 25.


Claim 1 and Claim 25 has been amended to delete the phrases "connection oriented" and "connection oriented communications network" respectively from the preambles of each claim. However, the Examiner will note that each claim continues to recite "a plurality of connections" as an explicit limitation in each of Claims 1 and 25.

Claims 15 to 24 have now been cancelled.

No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

By way of the present amendments, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action in due course is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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